

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rapid HIV Test Offered at CA State University San Bernardino for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The Rapid HIV Antibody test will be offered free at the California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) campus on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. This event is in recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Testing will be offered by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, a co-sponsor with Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), and CSUSB, in cooperation with the Cross Cultural Center and Enrichment through Action, and Brothers and Sisters in Action (B.A.S.I.A.).

The Rapid HIV Antibody tests will be available from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., next to the Santos Manuel Student Union Event Center. The ARMC Mobile Clinic will provide a confidential facility for the testing. There will be a speaker at 10:00 a.m. Students and the general public are welcome to participate. There is a \$5.00 parking fee at CSUSB.

Public Health Officer Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., noted that the “Rapid HIV Antibody test is very easy to do, and gives results in 20 to 40 minutes.” He emphasized that “testing is important so people can know their status, get treated early, and prevent the risk of transmitting the disease to others.”

African Americans are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Nationwide, African Americans account for about half (49 percent) of the people who get HIV and AIDS, though they represent about 13 percent of the U.S. population. In 2008, African Americans were 22 percent of the San Bernardino County HIV specialty clinic clients, but only represent 8.3 percent of the County population. African American women are especially affected by this disease, since they comprise 40 percent of all females reported with HIV/AIDS in the County.

For more information about the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Testing Event, contact Patricia Green, CEO with B.A.S.I.A., at (909) 820-0446. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health has additional details about HIV/AIDS testing and treatment at www.sbcounty.gov/dph, or call 1 (800) 782-4264.

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